

REMARKS

Attached hereto is a certified English translation of the French priority document, dated July 11, 2000. As the Koike reference, EP 1,051,964 was published on November 15, 2000, this reference does not qualify as prior art herein. Because all of the rejections rely upon this reference as a primary teaching reference, all rejections should be withdrawn.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. Treanor', is written over the printed name of the attorney.

Richard L. Treanor
Attorney of Record
Registration No.: 36,379

Customer Number

22850

Telephone: (703) 413-3000

Facsimile (703) 413-2220